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Former Soldier Charged With Betraying Agent

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A former Army counterintelligence specialist was arrested yesterday at Dulles International Airport and charged with selling the Soviet Union information about an American double agent operation designed to infiltrate the KGB, the Russian secret police and intelligence agency.

Richard Craig Smith, 40, of Bellevue, Wash., who worked for the Army's Intelligence and Security Command from 1973 to 1980, was charged with accepting \$11,000 from a KGB agent to whom he allegedly gave enough information to identify the U.S. double agent.

That agent was operating under the code name "Royal Miter" and supposedly was working for the Soviets, but was actually helping Americans identify Soviet agents, the Justice Department said.

"The unauthorized disclosure of this information could cause serious damage to national security," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Aronica as he successfully argued

that Smith should be held without bond. "This is the most serious offense an individual can be charged with against the United States."

"He hurt us," the Associated Press quoted an unnamed federal law enforcement source as saying. The AP said the source said American officials are concerned for the safety of a number of double agents who were working with the Army intelligence command as a result of the case.

Smith, who said he encountered financial difficulties after leaving the Army, flew to Washington voluntarily yesterday where he surrendered to FBI agents at Dulles. According to court papers, he received a total of \$11,000 from the Soviet agent, Victor I. Okunev, after several meetings in Tokyo.

The FBI said Smith, a former Army enlisted intelligence specialist and a civil service worker, met with Okunev three times—twice in November 1982 and once in February 1983.

Smith told the FBI that he provided details to Okunev that would allow the Soviets to determine the existence and identity of Royal Miter, according to an affidavit from Special Agent Michael Waguespack. He had been the case officer for "Royal Miter," the double-agent investigating KGB officers.

At a hearing yesterday afternoon before U.S. Magistrate W. Harris Grimsley in Alexandria, Smith requested a court-appointed attorney because he said he could not afford one. A preliminary hearing was set for April 13.

Aronica also said at the hearing that additional espionage-related charges, "based on records, admissions and confessions of the defendant" will be brought against Smith after the case is presented to a federal grand jury. The maximum penalty Smith faces on the charge filed against him—transmitting national defense information—is life imprisonment.

Smith told Grimsley that it would be "preposterous" for anyone to think that he would flee. "I've been under surveillance for the last three weeks, they have my passport, and I call them every time I leave the house. I have nothing to gain by leaving the country," he said.

Smith said his home is an hour from the Canadian border and added: "If I was going to flee, I'm certain I would have fled by now."

Smith said that after he resigned from the Army in 1980, he borrowed extensively to finance business ventures, had experienced serious difficulties and was forced to declare bankruptcy during the summer of 1982, according to the affidavit.

Smith, who is married and has four children, told Grimsley he had been working for only one week for a company called Best Resume, a writing service. For three months last year, he worked as a producer and director of KBYU, a television station operated by Brigham Young University in Utah.

Aronica said Smith joined the Army in 1967, rose to staff sergeant and switched from military to civilian duty in 1977.